## Message Text

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**ACTION ITF-05** 

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 EA-10 SSO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

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FOR INDOCHINA TASK FORCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, UN, CB, VS, VN

SUBJ: UNHCR STATEMENT ON VIETNAM/CAMBODIAN REPATRIATION

1. AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING JUNE 2 UNSYG SPOKESMAN (POWELL) READ A STATEMENT FROM THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, BUT FIRST EXPLAINED THAT THE HIGH COMMISSIONER IS POSTING LIAISON OFFICERS TO THREE CAMPS IN THE US: DAVID ARNOLD, US CITIZEN, TO FORT CHAFFEE; MOHAMED GHARIB, IRANIAN NATIONAL, TO CAMP PENDLETON; ARNIE TORGERSON, NORWEGIAN NATIONAL, TO INDIANTOWN, PENSYLVANIA. SPOKESMAN STATED THAT ACCORDING TO NFORMATION AVAILABLE TO UNHCR THERE ARE 1056 VIETNAMESE IN GUAM INTERESTED IN VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION. FROM CAMPS WITHIN THE US SOME 260 INDO-CHINESE (HE DID NOT SPECIFY NUMBERS OF VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIAN) HAVE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO RETURN TO VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. OUTSIDE OF THE REFUGEE CAMPS IN THE US THERE ARE SOME 13,000 VIETNAMESE AND 1,160 CAMBODIANS WHO ORIGINALLY ENTERED THE US AS DISPLACED PERSONS, SOME OF WHOM HAVE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO RETURN

2. THE SPOKESMAN READ FOLLOWING FROM UNHCR:

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"UNHCR LIAISON OFFICERS HAVE BEEN OR ARE BEING POSTED IN

CAMPS IN THE US TO ESTABLISH AND SUPERVISE PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED BY VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIANS WHO MIGHT WISH TO REPATRIATE VOLUNTARILY TO THEIR COUNTRY. IN ADDITION, HOWEVER, THERE ARE VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIANS PRESENTLY IN THE US WHO ARE LIVING OUTSIDE THE CAMPS WHO MIGHT ALSO WISH TO REPATRIATE. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT SUCH PERSONS CONTACT DIRECTLY THE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNHCR AT UN HEADQUARTERS, NY 10017. IF FOR PRACTICAL REASONS THIS SHOULD BE DIFFICULT SUCH PERSONS SHOULD CONTACT THE LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS FOR THE REGIONAL OR SEND THEIR REQUEST TO THE REGIONAL REP OF UNHCR WHO WILL THEN TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION." IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS POWELL SAID THERE HAVE BEEN NO ACTUAL REPATRIATIONS SO FAR; THIS TAKES TIME, AND THERE IS NO ESTIMATE OF WHEN THE FIRST PERSON MAY GO HOME. THE FINANCIAL MODALITIES HAVE NOT YET BEEN WORKED OUT. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER MAY HAVE TO REQUEST FUNDS FROM MEMBER STATES FOR THE ACTUAL REPATRIATION.

3. ASKED WHETHER THE PRG WILL WELCOME THEM BACK WITHOUT ADVERSE ACTION, POWELL SAID IT IS THE PRACTICE, AS IN PREVIOUS REPATRIATIONS, BEFORE PEOPLE ARE RETURNED HOME TO INFORM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NAMES AND THEN IF THE GOVERNMENT SAYS THEY ARE WELCOME IT IS ASSUMED THE GOVERNMENT WANTS THEM AND WILL WELCOME THEM BACK. BENNETT

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TAGS: PFOR, SREF, CB, VS, VN, UNHRC, (POWELL), (ARNOLD, DAVID), (GHARIB, MOHAMED), (TORGERSON, ARNIE)

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